



Women's Edition

Volume 4, Issue 14

Mission statement:

"The mission of the Missouri Women's Council is to promote the economic success of Missouri women by connecting them to information and resources"



Jeremiah "Jay" Nixon
Governor



Chris Pieper
Acting Director
Department of Economic Development

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**Missouri Women's Council
Board Members
2013**

Board Chair

Michelle J. Word, Kansas City

Janet M. Bandera, O'Fallon

Christine J. Bierman, St. Louis

Nicole Colbert-Botchway, St. Louis

Melodee Colbert-Kean, Joplin

Jacqueline Coleman, Jefferson City

Senator Shalonn ("Kiki") Curls, Kansas City

Rep. Marsha Haefner, St. Louis

Rep. Genise Monticello, St. Louis

Norma Nisbet, St. Louis

Catherine Crum Thompson, Jefferson City

Karen Thornton, Sunrise Beach

Valerie White, St. Charles

Donayle Whitmore-Smith, St. Louis



Featured Missouri Women's Council Board Member
Mayor Melodee Colbert-Kean

Melodee Colbert-Kean was recently elected as the first African American to serve as the Mayor of the City of Joplin. She is reportedly the fourth woman to serve in this capacity.

Melodee is committed to community and civic services, including serving as the Mayor of the City of Joplin, she also previously served as Mayor Pro Tem on the Joplin City Council. As an elected official since April 2006, she has served on the Missouri Municipal League's Economic Development & Human Resources Board, and on the National League of Cities F.A.I.R. Policy Board, and on the Missouri Southern State University Robert Plaster School of Business Advisory Board, the Joplin Metro Credit Union Board of Directors, Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce, V.P. Joplin Emancipation Committee, NAACP and the Main Street Joplin Alliance.

Melodee is the president of Prayerful Portions, LLC, a small business consulting firm. Her company is dedicated to assisting other small businesses in developing and integrating growth strategies to optimize profitability and sustainability.

A graduate of Missouri Southern State University with a degree in Marketing, Melodee worked for over 13 years with a Mall development company as an Assistant Manager and Business Development Director. She also holds a MO Real Estate License with Charles Burt Realtors.

Melodee resides in Joplin with her husband William Kean, Jr. They have four children. She is a member of Unity Missionary Baptist Church and serves as Assistant Recording Secretary.



Economic News You Can Use

SBA Unveils Small Business Learning Center

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently launched an online Small Business Learning Center. This site features a searchable catalog of small business educational resources, including web chat sessions, videos, and self-paced courses. These resources can also be sorted by topic, making it easier for the user to access site information. The Small Business Learning Center also offers free online courses, which cover topics such as writing a business plan, government contracting 101, green business opportunities, a guide to starting a business for young entrepreneurs and more. In addition, the site offers local organizations such as an SBA District Office, SCORE Chapter, Women's Biz Center or a Small Biz Development Center. www.sba.gov/sba-learning-center

National Women's Business Council Annual Report

NWBC's annual report reflects their research findings and issues of American women business owners. Features new data on the status of women-owned businesses, provides the first public look at how women-owned businesses fared during the recent economic downturn. To download the report, please visit www.nwbc.gov/research/nwbc-2012-annual-report



Women Entrepreneurs Group Launched in St. Louis

The Women Entrepreneurs of St. Louis (WEST) was founded to "inspire, connect, and empower women entrepreneurs" in the region. Jenny Dibble, a principal at digital marketing and PR firm Traffic PRM, founded WEST along with Allison Carmen, the founder and CEO of tech startup Material Mix, and Sheila Burkett, a former partner at Edward Jones. www.west-stl.com

Governor Nixon's Small Business Loan Program

Through Gov. Nixon's Small Business Loan Program, Missouri businesses with 15 employees or fewer may apply for loans of between \$2,500 and \$50,000. The loans are typically repaid over a ten-year term and at a low interest rate of 3 percent. Missouri businesses wishing to apply for one of the loans can go online to www.ded.mo.gov/MOLoan/index.htm to download an application.

Gray Design Group

Celebrating 30 Years in Business



Wendy Gray
President/CEO of Gray Design Group

Founded in 1982 by Wendy Gray, Gray is one of the leading architectural, interior design and planning firms in the Midwest. In their third decade of business, the firm is responsible for planning over five million square feet of diverse commercial environments annually.

Incorporating a multidisciplinary team approach, Gray Design Group prides itself on consistently providing appropriate design solutions obtainable within specified schedules and budgets. Gray Design Group believes in listening carefully to their client's requirements, then creating exciting, effective, and efficient solutions with bottom line value.

With an emphasis on building and maintaining close relationships, Gray Design Group incorporates principal involvement in their projects, and never loses sight of their main objective – exceeding their client's expectations on every level.

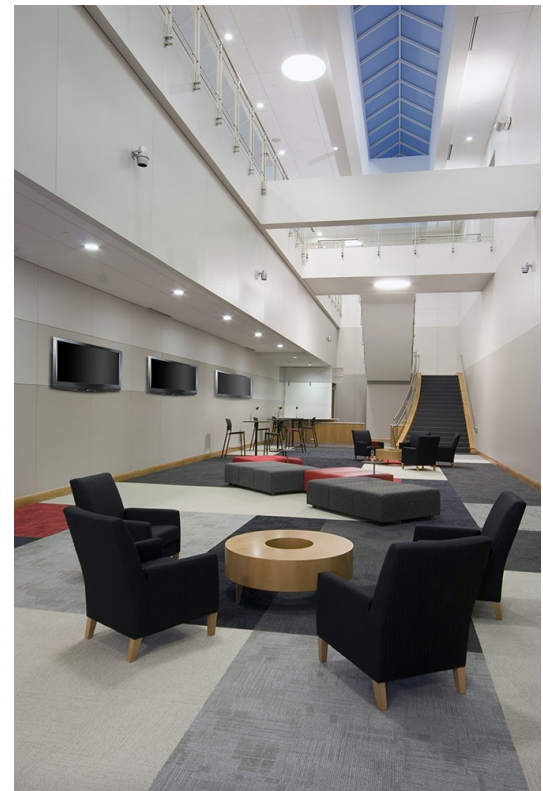
Gray Design Group is certified with the State of Missouri as a Women Business Enterprise (WBE), WBENC (National) and the City of St. Louis.



Delmar Gardens Enterprises' Headquarters
(each photo include designs of Gray Design Group)



Hampton Inn & Suites/
Krieger's Sports Grill



APC by Schneider Electric -
Technology Center

Gray Design Group

Industry Leader

In addition to numerous award winning projects, Gray Design Group has been recognized in their industry for many years by receiving a number of firm awards.

Commercial Magazine

- New Construction Award

Concrete Council Quality Award

- Multiple Awards

DiversityBusiness.com

- #54 Top 100 Diversity Owned Businesses in Missouri
- #33 Top 50 Women Owned Businesses in Missouri

ENR Midwest

- Best Projects : Award of Merit
- Top 20 Under 40 – Toby Heddinghaus

IIDA Mid America Design Awards (MADA)

- Multiple Awards

IIDA Unravel Fashion Show

- Best Concept to Creation

Inc. Magazine

- Entrepreneur of the Year Award Finalist – Wendy Gray

Interior Design Magazine

- Interior Design Giants
- Healthcare Giants
- Top 10 Financial Institution Design Firms

International Illumination Design Awards

- Multiple Awards

Landmarks Association

- Most Enhanced Site Award

Midwest Construction

- Best of Awards
- Top Midwest Design Firms

Real Estate + Construction Review

- Green Building of America Award
- Top St. Louis Projects

Small Business Monthly

- Best in Reliability
- Best in Value

Solutia

- Doc Award of Excellence

St. Louis Business Journal

- Most Influential Business Women – Wendy Gray
- CFO Award – Small Private Company – Lorrie Kramer
- Book of Lists Top Interior Design Firms
- Top 100 Fastest-Growing Private Companies

Tilt-Up Concrete Association

- Tilt-Up Achievement Award

TOBY Office Building of the Year

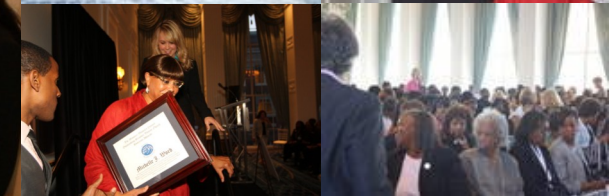
- Multiple Awards



University of Missouri—Columbia
MU Student Center

OWN (Oprah Winfrey Network) at the Missouri Women's Council's St. Louis Business Event Featuring Robbie Montgomery

On September 5, 2012, the Missouri Women's Council hosted an event for St. Louis women entrepreneurs. The event included information from the Small Business Administration on current and future programs beneficial to women in business. The keynote speech was delivered by Robbie Montgomery of Sweetie Pie's restaurant in St. Louis. The Oprah Winfrey Network (OWN) filmed at the event to include the coverage in the "Welcome to Sweetie Pies" show that airs on OWN. The event was held in conjunction with the 2012 Governor's Conference on Economic Development at the Grand Renaissance Hotel.









The Competitive Advantage:

Women Competing in Business

August 7, 2012
Governor's Office Building
200 Madison Street
Jefferson City

REGISTER TODAY

www.womenscouncil.org
click the link below "topic of interest"



On August 7, 2012, the Missouri Women's Council hosted an event entitled "The Competitive Advantage: Women Competing in Business." The event included a keynote speech from the author of Sun Tzu for Women: The Art of War for Winning in Business by Becky Sheetz-Runkle. After the opening session and keynote speech, there was a Business Boot Camp including sessions on the Skills Needed to Start a Business, the Art to a Booming Business, and the Secret Sauce for Personal and Professional Well-Being. During the Business Boot Camp, business professionals and seasoned women owned business owners were on hand to answer questions. Becky Sheetz-Runkle had a book signing for the attendees at the event. Attendees also had the opportunity to win multiple door prizes including a Kindle Fire provided by Coleman & Associates, LLC.



Ancient Strategies for Today's Workplace

SUN TZU for WOMEN

孫子

THE ART OF WAR
FOR WINNING
IN BUSINESS



BECKY SHEETZ-RUNKLE



The Missouri Women's Council welcomes you to join us for our event The Competitive Advantage: Women Competing in Business. This year's event will feature:

Keynote Address
Becky Sheetz-Runkle, Author of Sun Tzu for Women:
The Art of War for Winning in Business



Business Boot Camp Sessions:

- The Skills Needed to Start a Business
- The Art to a Booming Business
- The Secret Sauce for Personal and Professional Well-being

A day filled with information for only \$20!

www.womenscouncil.org






Norma Nisbet receives an award from the Realtors® Land Institute

Missouri Women's Council Board Member receives a Distinguished Service Award from Realtors® Land Institute

November 8, 2012 in Orlando FL at the National REALTORS Annual Convention – The REALTORS Land Institute announced that Norma Nisbet, Owner and President of Vista Properties and Investments of St. Louis was awarded the prestigious Distinguished Service award.

The award was first presented in 1999 in honor of dedicated long-time Accredited Land Consultant (ALC) Robert Meeks. The distinguished Service Award is presented to ALC's in recognition of long-term commitment and service to fellow Institute members, the land profession, and the community.

Norma had previously been presented with the 2006 Land Realtor of America award and had served as the 2004 National President of the Institute.

Normal is also an active, dedicated member of the Missouri Women's Council.



Missouri Women's Council at Sweetie Pies Restaurant

The day after the Women's Business Event in St. Louis, the Missouri Women's Council enjoyed Sweetie Pie's cuisine at the Mangrove location.

Missouri Women's Council attends 20th Annual Women's Foundation Awards in Kansas City

The Missouri Women's Council attended the Women's Foundation awards in Kansas City. The event was held on December 7th at the Sheraton Hotel at the Crown Center in Kansas City.



Lisa Althoff, Michelle Word and Consuella McCain-Nunnally at the KC Women's Foundation event



Missouri Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO)



The Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO) exists to promote a diversified workforce within state government and to assist women and minorities in developing opportunities to contract with the state, economically empowering traditionally underserved communities and improving the overall fiscal vitality of the State of Missouri.

Our goal is to serve as a resource for promoting diversity within the state workforce and improving opportunities for women and minorities to access state employment openings and state contracts through excellent service and efficient use of resources. OEO works toward this goal by completing the following primary functions: Certification of Minority/Women Business Enterprises (M/WBE), Education and Outreach, and Matchmaking Activities.

OEO has streamlined its M/WBE Certification Process by lessening the amount of required documentation from the vendor. The certification staff is responsible for identifying and certifying minority and women business enterprises by conducting thorough eligibility reviews while ensuring that vendors receive prompt and responsible customer service.

The program's eligibility criteria are set forth and strictly followed. The certification staff is available to answer questions and provide information to vendors, local governments and state agencies regarding OEO certification procedures.

In an effort to ensure that M/WBE businesses are aware and take advantage of contractual opportunities available with state agencies, OEO sponsors or co-sponsors activities ranging from regional workshops, orientation sessions for newly certified M/WBE vendors and training workshops for state agencies. In addition, OEO is constantly seeking proactive ways to foster the inclusion of M/WBE enterprises in state contracting opportunities, including disseminating procurement information to M/WBE entities through its website.

Matchmaking involves activities designed to build relationships between M/WBE vendors and state agency procurement specialists, non-minority vendors, and decision makers. Matchmaking activities include, among other things, assisting M/WBE enterprises in identifying state agencies most likely to purchase the type of goods and/or services that their businesses provide.

**State of Missouri
Office of Administration
Office of Equal Opportunity
Truman State Office Building
301 West High Street, Room 630, Post Office Box 809
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: 573.751.8130 * Fax: 573.522.8078
www.oa.mo.gov/o eo/**

Office of Equal Opportunity's Goal Disparity Study



Celeste Metcalf
Director
Office of Equal Opportunity

Disparity study. Disparity study. Disparity study! An updated State of Missouri Disparity Study is the current goal of the Office of Equal Opportunity (OEO). An updated disparity study will serve a variety of purposes:

- Provide updated information about the status and availability of minority- and women-owned businesses that currently exist in the state;
- Provide a basis for determining contract goals that can and should be achieved; and
- Provide a legally sustainable foundation for enforcing whatever goals are established.

A disparity study is one of the many avenues the Office of Administration and the Office of Equal Opportunity are pursuing to ensure that minorities and women-owned businesses have representation in state expenditures. OEO's exploring other ways to increase the number of contract opportunities that are being awarded throughout the state.

One project OEO's pursuing is the development and creation of an online bidding system. Our research indicates several other states have experienced tremendous success increasing minority- and women-owned contract awards with a state-run procurement system. In addition to awarding contracts, another area OEO's focusing on is monitoring and compliance. OEO realizes there are areas that need work ; but also realize the need for help and assistance in understanding the nature of the problem, if they are to develop an effective solution to these issues.

Finally, as OEO moves forward with the development of new systems and processes, educating users on how to access contracts will be crucial to the success of this system. OEO envisions hosting several "how to" webinars that will discuss how to access contracts, how to find out about bid opportunities, how to register with the state, who to contact about discretionary expenditures and more. Stay tuned as OEO works these new processes.

The disparity study and online bidding system each will take time to initiate and implement. Completion of the disparity study depends on our ability to successfully raise more than \$1 million to fund the study. Implementation of the online bidding system will require extensive software set up, coordination, and communication with multiple entities statewide. However, OEO's moving forward in their efforts to increase minority and women participation.

Women's History Exhibit Drury University Event

The official reception for the celebration of the induction of Rose Cecil O'Neill into the Missouri Women's Council "Outstanding Women of Missouri" traveling exhibit was hosted by Drury University on November 2, 2012. The exhibit was on display at Drury's Pool Art Center Gallery for the entire month of November.

Jacqueline Warren, Drury art professor, curated an O'Neill original art exhibit which served as an impressive backdrop to the Council's exhibit which now includes the acknowledgment O'Neill's successful accomplishments in the arts.



Jo Van Arkel—English Dept. Chair; Jacqueline Warren—Art Professor & Curator of the O'Neill art exhibit; Lisa Althoff—Missouri Women's Council



Jacqueline Warren—Art Professor & Curator of the O'Neill art exhibit; David O'Neill (great-nephew of Rose O'Neill); Lisa Althoff—Missouri Women's Council

During the reception, a PowerPoint presentation was given by Susan Scott which showed the varied history of O'Neill, Bonniebrook, and her multitude of accomplishments in the field of women's rights, etc. After the presentation, attendees expressed surprise at the variety of styles and methods of O'Neill art and asked many questions. Examples of O'Neill's illustrations starting in the late 1800's through the 1930's were shared with attendees as testaments to the amazing talent she used to create art that ultimately accompanied magazine cartoons, short stories, and poems. They were further surprised at O'Neill's utilization of the internationally recognized Kewpie character and her serious art for combating discrimination against women and minorities along with creating awareness of a variety of social issues.

One of the questions asked was, "How many years did Rose O'Neill spend in New York and in Missouri?" Scott explained that a group of researchers is currently working on a timeline of O'Neill's life that will ultimately reveal a more precise answer to the question. Scott also added, "Researchers do know from O'Neill's letters and journals that she spent many years at a time at Bonniebrook where she created the Kewpie, many amazing pieces of art, as well as two novels".

Comments made during the reception indicated many of the attendees were not aware that O'Neill embodied all the sister arts as an artist, writer, sculptor, activist, poet, and philanthropist. Although, most of them already knew she created the Kewpie!

Lisa Althoff, Executive Director of the Missouri Women's Council, proclaimed her thanks to Drury University for the excellent O'Neill art exhibit which reflected the many reasons the Council selected Rose Cecil O'Neill to be honored in their traveling exhibit



Jacqueline Warren—Art Professor & Curator of the O'Neill art exhibit; David O'Neill (great-nephew of Rose O'Neill); Susan Scott - President Bonniebrook Historical Society





Missouri Linked Deposit Program

MISSOURI LINKED DEPOSIT *Loans to Develop Our Future*

The Missouri Linked Deposit Program partners with lending institutions to provide low-interest loans to help create and retain jobs, expand the economy and strengthen communities statewide. By reducing the interest rate on certain loans that borrowers can use to improve their businesses, the program helps qualified lenders from Missouri better serve Missouri-based companies and agricultural operations. The program also provides funds for local governments to serve the interests of their constituents. Using the program allows lenders to lower the interest rates to the borrower by about 2-3 percent.

The Missouri Linked Deposit Program is well-funded with a total of \$720 million available, and State Treasurer Clint Zweifel's office is prepared to use the program to its highest potential. The program has proven successful in creating and retaining jobs, expanding the economy and strengthening communities statewide for nearly 25 years.

The program's eligibility guidelines have expanded through Treasurer Zweifel's economic development legislation, [Invest in Missouri](#), making low-interest loans available to more borrowers including small businesses creating jobs, alternative energy producers and consumers, agriculture operations and local governments.

Program Information and Eligibility Requirements

Click on one of the links below to learn more about the program and eligibility requirements.

[Small Business Program](#) - \$110 million
[Job Enhancement Program](#) - \$220 million
[Alternative Energy Program](#) - approved case-by-case
[Agriculture Program](#) - \$330 million
[Local Governments Program](#) - approved case-by-case
[Multi-Family Housing Program](#) - \$20 million

Missouri State Treasurer Clint Zweifel
Post Office Box 210
Jefferson City, MO 65102
Phone: 573.751.8533
www.treasurer.mo.gov



Business Trainings and Job Fairs

January 11, 2013

Starting and Managing a Business

Location: Lees Summit

[Click Here for more information](#)

January 15, 2013

Starting a Small Business: First Steps

Location: Sedalia

[Click Here for more information](#)

January 16, 2013

Exploring Entrepreneurship

Location: Columbia

[Click Here for more information](#)

January 16, 2013

Building the Ultimate Business Plan

Location: Springfield

[Click Here for more information](#)

January 17, 2013

Winning Government Contracts

Location: Blue Springs

[Click Here for more information](#)

January 17, 2013

Basics to Writing a Business Plan

Location: Jefferson City

[Click Here for more information](#)

January 18, 2013

Sources of Finance: Business Start-up and Expansion

Location: Ft. Leonard Wood

[Click Here for more information](#)

JOB FAIR

ST. JOSEPH JOB FAIR

January 18, 2013

[Click Here for more information](#)

January 24, 2013

Introduction to Quickbooks Pro

Location: Forsyth

[Click Here for more information](#)

January 24, 2013

Customer Service: Taking Care of Customers

Location: Mexico

[Click Here for more information](#)

January 25, 2013

Starting and Managing a Business

Location: Warrensburg

[Click Here for more information](#)

JOB FAIR

JOPLIN JOB FEST

January 29, 2013

[Click Here for more information](#)

January 30, 2013

Crowd Sourcing for Beginners

Location: Kansas City

[Click Here for more information](#)

February 6, 2013

Winning Federal Research Grants

Location: Kansas City

[Click Here for more information](#)

February 6, 2013

Business Essentials Trilogy

Location: Columbia

[Click Here for more information](#)

February 7, 2013

Winning Government Contracts

Location: Kansas City

[Click Here for more information](#)

February 12, 2013

How to Write a Successful Business Plan

Location: Warrensburg

[Click Here for more information](#)



Business Trainings and Job Fairs

February 13, 2013

Exploring Entrepreneurship

Location: Columbia

[Click Here for more information](#)

February 19, 2013

Entrepreneurship: Planning, Financing and Starting Your Business

Location: St. Louis

[Click Here for more information](#)

February 19, 2013

Understanding, Building & Preserving Business Value

Location: Kansas City

[Click Here for more information](#)

February 21, 2013

Winning Government Contracts

Location: Blue Springs

[Click Here for more information](#)

February 26, 2013

Google Apps Workshop

Location: Kansas City

[Click Here for more information](#)

February 28, 2013

Real World Marketing in Action

Location: Joplin

[Click Here for more information](#)

March 6, 2013

Social Media Marketing for Small Business

Location: Columbia

[Click Here for more information](#)

March 7, 2013

Writing a Business Plan

Location: Columbia

[Click Here for more information](#)

JOB FAIR

CLINTON CAREER FAIR

March 6, 2013

[Click Here for more information](#)

March 12, 2013

Business Essentials: Precision Target Marketing

Location: Columbia

[Click Here for more information](#)

March 21, 2013

Winning Government Contracts

Location: Blue Springs

[Click Here for more information](#)

March 28, 2013

Veterans Enterprise Forum

Location: Joplin

[Click Here for more information](#)

April 3, 2013

Business Essentials: Understanding Financial Statements for Informed Executive Business Decisions

Location: Columbia

[Click Here for more information](#)

JOB FAIR

NEVADA JOB FAIR

April 9, 2013

[Click Here for more information](#)





In Every Issue

Business Resources

Missouri Business Portal

An online resource as a single point of entry for business registration, filings, licenses, and permits for doing business in the State of Missouri. [Click here for more information.](#)

Missouri Business Development Programs

The Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Center (MO SBTDC) successfully assists more than 10,000 businesses with business start-up and training workshops. Visit www.missouribusiness.net.

Missouri Catalog of State Assistance Programs

Provides detailed information about state grants, loans and assistance programs and how to apply for them. [Click here for more information.](#)

Missouri Department of Economic Development Programs for Business

The Missouri Department of Economic Development offers a listing of programs for businesses. For a full listing, please [click here](#).

Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Centers (MEBAC)

MEBAC's mission is to help small businesses enhance productivity, expand production, increase sales and improve profitability. Visit www.missourienterprise.org or call toll free at (800) 956-2682.

Missouri Linked Deposit Program

The Big Missouri Linked Deposit Program is administered through the state treasurer's office to enable financial institutions to make low-cost loans to businesses and farms to create jobs and help Missouri's economy grow. Visit www.treasurer.mo.gov/LinkedDeposit.asp.

MOSourceLink

MOSourceLink connects small business owners with a network of nonprofit resource organizations that provide business-building services. Visit www.mosourcelink.com or call toll-free at (866) 870-6500.

Missouri Procurement Technical Assistance Centers (MO PTAC)

MO PTAC's mission is to assist businesses—including small, disadvantaged and women owned firms—in obtaining federal, state and local government contracts. Visit www.missouribusiness.net/PTAC

Missouri Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board (SBRFB)

The SBRFB provides a key interface between state regulatory agencies and affected small businesses. For more information, please [click here](#).

Missouri Small Business and Technology Assistance Centers (MO SBTDC)

MO SBTDC is focused on strengthening the technological competitiveness of Missouri's businesses. Visit www.missouribusiness.net/fast.

Missouri Women's Council

Provides information and resources regarding business, education and career development to Missouri's women. Visit www.womenscouncil.org or call toll free at (877) 426-9284.

MoFAST: SBIR/STTR Program

Help for entrepreneurs and small businesses seeking federal funding for technology and life sciences businesses, products, research and development. Visit www.mofast.net.

Office of Administration—Office of Equal Opportunity

OEO's mission works to assist women and minorities in developing opportunities to contract with the state, economically empowering traditionally underserved communities and improving the overall fiscal vitality of the State of Missouri. Visit www.oa.mo.gov/oeo or call toll free (877) 259-2963.

SBA— Small Business Administration

The SBA links entrepreneurs with resources, services and support specifically designed for small business needs. Visit www.sba.gov or call toll free at (800) U ASK SBA.





In Every Issue-

Women's Resources

National Association of Women Business Owners

NAWBO is a dues-based national organization representing the interests of all women entrepreneurs in all industries. Membership is open to sole proprietors, partners and corporate owners with day-to-day management responsibility.

Phone: (800) 556-2926

Website: www.nawbo.org

National Women's Business Council

The Council's mission is to promote initiatives, policies and programs designed to support women's business enterprises at all stages of development in the public and private sector marketplaces, from start-up to success to significance.

Website: www.nwbc.gov

eWomenNetwork, Inc.

eWomenNetwork, Inc. is committed to helping women and their businesses achieve, succeed and thrive in the new economy. Their goal is to help female business owners and professionals achieve their goals.

Website: www.eWomenNetwork.com

Women Impacting Public Policy, Inc. (WIPP)

A national nonpartisan public policy organization that advocates for and on behalf of women and minorities in business in the legislative process of our national, creating economic opportunities and building bridges and alliances to other small business organizations.

Website: www.wipp.org

Career Education Coordinators

Network of professionals focusing on nontraditional careers as well as providing information and expertise in career awareness, exploration and planning for various audiences.

Website: www.missouricareereducation.org

Women's Business Enterprise National Council (WBENC)

Dedicated to advancing the success of Corporate Members, certified women's business enterprises, and government entities in partnership with its Regional Partner Organizations (RPOs)

Website: www.wbenc.org

Missouri Child Care Resource and Referral Network

The Missouri Women's Council recognizes that often times women in business and workforce may encounter barriers accessing quality child care. This organization coordinates the activities of the eight child care resource and referral agencies that serve all 115 counties in Missouri.

Website: www.mocccrn.org

Women's Business Development Center

The largest women's business assistance center in the United States. Nationally and internationally recognized for responsive, innovative, and effective programs and advocacy efforts. Delivers business services and financial assistance to empower women towards entrepreneurship and economic self-sufficiency.

Website: www.wbdc.org

Caring Communities

A "partnership" that enables community and school leaders to define priorities and agendas based on each community's needs, assets and vision. By developing community-based supports and services, the aim is to enhance the well-being of children, which is inseparable from the well-being of their families and the stability and economic viability of the communities where they live.

Website: www.mofact.org

WPO Women Presidents' Organization

The WPO is a non-profit membership organization for women presidents of multimillion-dollar companies. Members of the WPO take part in professionally facilitated peer advisory groups in order to coax the 'genius out of the group' and grow their businesses to the next level.

Website: www.womenpresidentsorg.com

Missouri Career Centers

Located in communities across the state and represent a unique partnership of employment and training organizations that reflect the specific needs in each local community. These resource areas are equipped with computers, fax machines, and telephones that operate similarly to a public library.

Website: www.missouricareersource.com





Missouri Women's Council



The Missouri Women's Council was established in 1985 by the State's 83rd General Assembly to identify and address issues affecting the economic and employment status of women in Missouri.

The first name of the council was the Missouri Council on Women's Economic Development and Training (MCWEDT). The name was changed to the Missouri Women's Council in 1994.

It is the intent of the Missouri Women's Council to work closely with other agencies and community-based organizations to build awareness, educate, promote opportunities for, and enhance the lives and well being of Missouri women business owners and women in the workforce.

The Missouri Women's Council offers information and resources on starting your Own Business, Women in Business, Finding a Great Job, Upgrading Your Skills, and Obtaining State Contracts.

The Council is an agency within the Department of Economic Development. The bipartisan Council is comprised of 15 members: 11 appointed by the Governor, 2 Missouri State Senators, and 2 Missouri State Representatives with the chair appointed by the governor. An Executive Directors is appointed to serve the Missouri Women's Council and the women of Missouri.

Find us on
Facebook



Follow us on
Facebook

Missouri Women's Council's Women Owned Business (WOB) Network

Helping Women-Owned Businesses Succeed in Missouri

Becoming a member of the WOB Network can help women-owned business owners find and interact with each other, as well as highlight the goods and services their businesses provide. Register for free, online at www.wobnetwork.mo.gov

To subscribe or unsubscribe to the Women's Edition, please [click here](#).